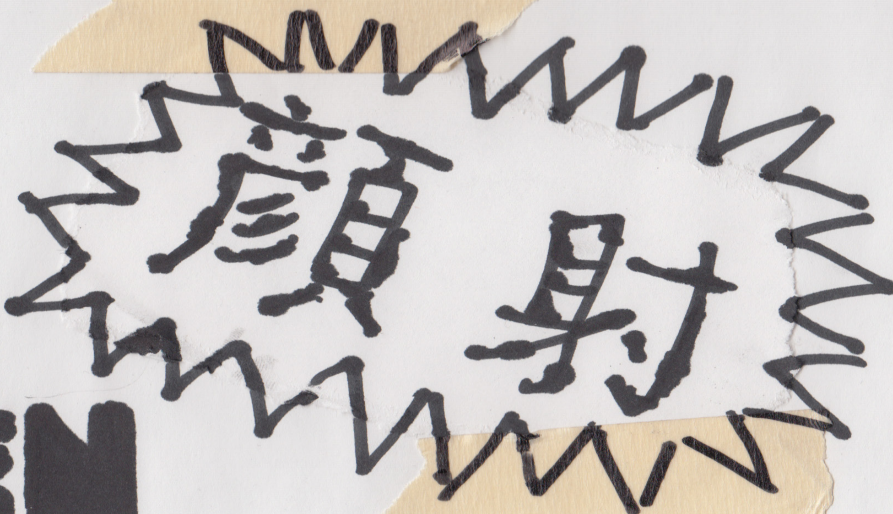


the
OMEN
(UNDERWATER BUKKAKE ISSUE)



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OH JESUS NO

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Front cover: Benjamin Batchelder

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Submit Policy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited, and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Thursday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Thursdays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

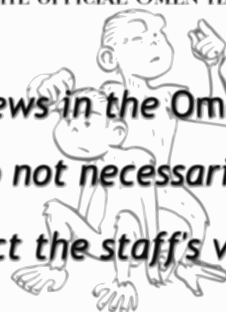
Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire.edu or Ian McEwen, Box 286.

THE OFFICIAL OMEN HAIKU:

Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)



The Omen Haiku

EDITORIAL

by Rachel Ithen

Everyone's sitting around right now chatting about excessive profanity and the Mythos Assassins game and I have a feeling that I'll be doing the editorial once again. So here goes nothing!

Today there are a total of nine people at layout. This makes me happier than you probably realize. Ian is gone this week, so I was in charge of scrawling advertisements on the Saga white board, submitting an intranet announcement, and sending out the regular layout e-mail. And I was terrified that, despite my best efforts, no one would show up.

BUT THEY DID! Eight other people, in fact. You rock, eight people.

But I probably shouldn't continue like this and end up making this editorial the exact same as the last editorial.

WAIT. BUT NOW I HAVE TO. A TENTH PERSON HAS JUST WALKED IN THE DOOR.

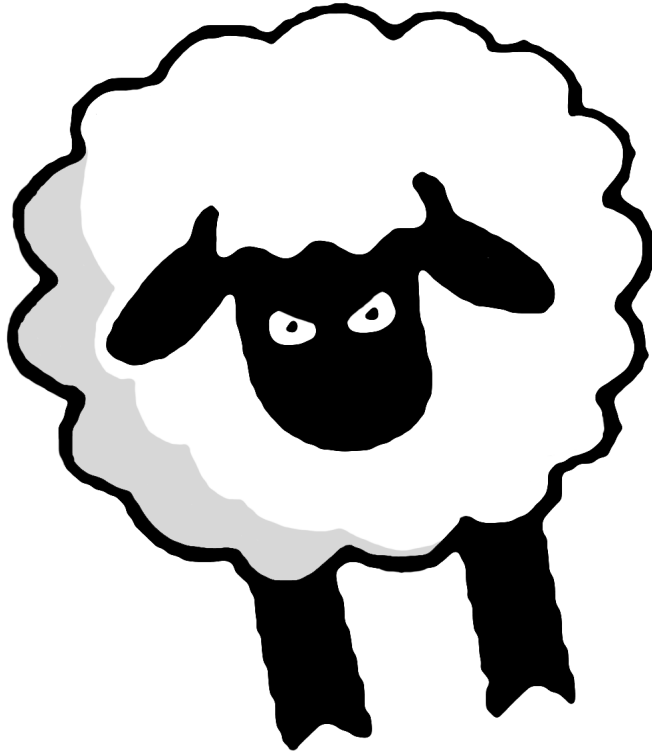
Okay, this is pretty cool stuff. For two layouts in a row, we have ten people present. You guys are awesome.

Okay, I'm out of ideas. I officially have no idea what to write an editorial about. How boring.

I just asked Evan what the standards of writing an editorial were. I was laughed at and was reminded that this is, in fact, the Omen. I then mentioned that the Omen may not have strict standards but it does have traditions. Evan said, "the tradition of the editorial is basically to make it bad. But mention something about submitting to us."

Submit to us.

omen@hampshire.edu



Nine is also definitely bigger than two.
(And ten still is.)

Layout & Editing Staff

Evan Silberman

Tell them SJP wants them to

Ben Batchelder

Cover it with fudge because they're fat

Greg Larsen

Write in five open letters to the community

Devin Morse

Yasser Arafat in a onesie

Rachel Ithen

Tell them the Omen double dog dares them to

Hannah Cooper-Hamlet

Putting an attractive and consenting person in there... and a bed?

Fiona Stewart-Taylor

To get to the other side

Sky Reid-Mills

I don't know any of the parties involved

Stephanie Schmidt

Put a bunch of underprivileged children in the room

Aaron Nishiwa

[stealth]

SECTION

My College Admissions Essay

by Benjamin Batchelder

Essay Topic: Which word best represents you and why?

This will be a difficult question to answer because a word is perhaps the most subjective entity that exists. If a word is found alone, and without context, it is fundamentally impossible to think of that word without bringing in past experiences to provide it any sort of depth. Here's an example. Stare at the following word and think about it:

TWINKLE

You may have heard the first few notes of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star,” thought of an exchange in the eye of a lover, visualized a gleam in the night sky, or something completely different entirely. Our brains function as analyzing mechanisms, and without this fundamental process of comprehending value, words—and ultimately language—are devoid of meaning. So I'll stick with what I believe are universal connotations of a word, and I'll explain what the word means to me, just to be safe.

The first thing I will do to obtain the one word that best describes me is to undergo a process of elimination, so as to narrow down the staggering number of words floating around out there. To start, I will eliminate all the words I do not know. You might think that was an obvious thing to do, but it was actually quite a bold statement of character. Another student might have spent most of his time searching in the dictionary

for a “good” word, that is, a word meant to show that he knows a lot of words. By finding the word in a dictionary, he believes he has “earned the right” to use the word, and will do so to prove that he can. But if I am to pick a word that describes me, I cannot morally reach beyond my range of intellect to try to prove that it is wider than it is.

I should also limit the word that I choose to the English language. I do know quite a few words in several other languages, especially French. I could give you a word in Chinese or Hungarian even that I tell you hits the nail right on the head. But again, my ulterior motive would probably be to demonstrate my knowledge of the word, and not to pick the perfect word itself. Let's face it, my first language is English, and I would be lying to both you and myself if I were to claim that I could express myself more fluently in any other language.

If I am to choose the truly perfect word, my persona must exist in all aspects of the word, not just the definition of the word. I'll have to narrow it down to a certain part of speech, because each has its own personality.

Most people writing this essay would jump subconsciously to the conclusion that the answer to this question must be an adjective. It seems an obvious choice at first; the question seeks to determine what word best describes the writer, and nothing describes things better than adjectives. But I would rather hit myself on the head with a shovel than conclude my college essay with, “In conclusion, the word that best describes me is ‘creative’ because I am so full of a natural creative energy that is present in my every action.” This would be lazy-

ness on my part, as well as lying, and I'm not going to lie to you.

It would also be wrong of me to describe myself as a noun, or even a verb. Nouns and verbs are the focal points of a sentence, to which all other words are subservient. But I tend to play less of a leader role than others, though I am neither incapable nor unwilling to lead a group. I prefer my input to be used like an adverb, not followed like a noun. If that means I must remain subservient, so be it. However, I'm not about to stoop so low as to tell you that I'm the word "the," because I'm so hard to describe nobody understands me. A person who says he's "the" is only trying to impress you with his originality. Of course I'm trying to prove that I'm an original thinker, but I'm simply not "the."

So what am I? Now that we've eliminated most parts of speech, pretty much all that's left are conjunctions, adverbs, and interjections.

Conjunctions are very interesting, because they represent logic in its purest form. If x, then y. X, but not y. X and y. These are the words that a language simply can't do without. Humans need to make logic, and they need to be able to express it. These are the enablers. In logic, conjunctions allow thought itself to work, and in language, they allow thought to manifest itself in a form that can be understood. Thus, if I believe I am a conjunction, I must accept the responsibility of a conjunction, of holding the entire universe together. Honestly, I'm not ready for that.

An adverb would probably be a better choice. Adverbs help and strengthen other words, as I try to help and strengthen other people. It doesn't always work, because I'm not terribly skilled in the art of helping and strengthening, but at least I try. Adverbs do not have the power to redefine words, and I don't think I need that power myself. Adverbs only add to ideas, and can only help a situation. I cannot think of a destructive adverb. They clarify, fortify, and enlighten. In life, that is what I'd like to do. But is it what I do? I'm not sure, but we're getting warmer.

Perhaps I'm an interjection. It does seem to fit. Anybody who knows me will tell you that I'm full of the sound and fury (and I don't signify too much). Just look

at how long this essay is! Even if I have nothing to say, I'm going to say something, because that is the way I function. And that is an interjection. I've been known to make noises, even when nobody's around. My personal verbal input in the last 17 years of history is simply staggering. I have redefined loquacious. Yes, I am an interjection! I assist the frightened, the angry, the emotional. I turn the taciturn on their heels and send those who are unwilling to listen away with a bad case of the heebie-jeebies.

Unfortunately, I am a very peaceful person. My character is not very aggressive. I would like to be more of a reserved interjection. Remember, if this word is to be perfect, it must describe me impeccably. So I will choose from the gamut of interjections to find the one that fits me like a glove.

From a physical standpoint, I'm not too tall, so my interjection should probably be less than three syllables. Something like "Jumping Jehosephat" just wouldn't match me. Besides, a word doesn't need to be long to express more. Also, I would try to avoid as best as possible letters that are pronounced differently than they normally are, like in "laugh," because in writing, I value the quality of genuineness and the ability to clearly get a point across. The letter-syllable confusion might be impossible to avoid, however, because English is a pretty nutty language.

In addition, my interjection must have value. In judging a word, the single greatest factor for rejection would be failure to say something. Interjections guilty of this are most likely victim to overuse. When you hear somebody say "damn," it won't bring up images of condemning somebody or something to damnation, as I'm sure it did in bygone days, and for this it would be unacceptable. This does not mean, however, that I will resort to niche interjections like "ahoy," which never fail to bring up images, for example, of pirates (unless you're from the Czech Republic or Slovakia, where "ahoj" is a commonplace greeting. But I digress.).

Humor is a big part of my life. I believe that humor is important in everyday situations, and I tend to use it almost every time I open my mouth. It's engrained in my character. This doesn't mean I take nothing seriously;

in fact, it's quite the opposite. I use my Jewish sarcasm to shine a different light on the world, and in doing so, I can show others what I value. For this reason, my interjection must be light-hearted. A curse word wouldn't work, because they can be used as weapons, and I'm not a weapon. I'm more of a pen than a sword, so to speak. So I must be light-hearted, but I'm certainly not a happy interjection. I am not "hooray," or any of the words which without their exclamation point at the end tend to burst at the seams with all their rapturous energy. If I ever use "hooray," it would be sarcastically. This would not do.

So what interjection am I? I pace the floor of my room, trying to think of an interjection that best represents me. Those that come to mind are the ones I've recently heard, including "oy," "phooey," and "sweet Jesus," all of which are fully unacceptable. If I were "oy," or "phooey," it would seem as if I do nothing but judge things in a pessimistic light. And can you imagine if I tried to convince you I was "sweet Jesus?" That kind of thing makes you crazy, and I'm not. I open books and flip through, but am completely at a loss. I sit back down and stare at my room. And I notice something I'd never noticed before: everything is simple. Nothing in my room is elaborate or complicated, at least aesthetically. I have a single-color wall. My ceiling is tiled geometric squares. My curtains have vertical lines.

I walk around the room like a crazy person, inspecting all my belongings and realize that, yes; every single item I own that is on display in my room is simple. It fits me completely. I've always believed that things should be as simple as possible, that order is next to godliness. My pants are blue. My shirt is white, with black words. I simplify everything in my universe. I comb over my writing and pull apart over-complex phrases. I strive to create logic and rhythm, because I like it that way.

So my word must be simple. It must come naturally to the tongue, and still carry a message to the ears. For this reason, I have chosen the word "yeah."

"Yeah" is a multifaceted word, and I am a multifaceted person. I've dabbled in painting and sculpture, poetry and prose, composition of music and programming code. It's because I'm not sure what I'd like to do for a living, so I'm trying it all. "Yeah," meanwhile, can be used

in almost an infinite number of purposes. Its meaning can be as simple as "yes," in an informal vernacular. But it can also express, depending on diction, more complicated thoughts such as "I am reluctant to admit this to you, but..." or "You bother me, and I wish you would go away," or even "You go, girl!" Alone, "yeah" can be an expression of pleasure, for example, or the verbalization of a blossoming thought. It can accomplish this all by itself, no prior dialogue required! And when used in tandem with other words, such as before "right" or after "heck," its meaning can fill the capillaries of human thought. It leaves no areas untouched; "yeah" can be used with love, happiness, greed, trust, anger, boredom, or any other emotional cue. And, as you can see, I could talk about anything forever.

If we examine "yeah" from a technical standpoint, we can see all kinds of linguistic oddities. This I like. It isn't pronounced too differently from what you'd expect, and so it can be deemed concise. But this is because the word itself is wacky. "Yeah" is an individual. Phonetically, it is pronounced /jæ/, the vowel sound of which, that is, æ, is probably never found in an "ea" vowel combination in English. And an online search for words ending in "eah" yielded only nine results, of which none, except for "yeah," are used at all in common English.

But what of value? I wouldn't blame you for thinking that "yeah" is in fact victim to overuse, and has lost its meaning over time. But this is wrong. "Yeah" does have a meaning, and can never actually fail to express it. According to almost every dictionary, "yeah" is synonymous with "yes," which, in effect, is an affirmative reply or an expression of emotion. This definition leaves the function of the word so open that it always works in its use, and, as I have said, it can express almost anything.

Although it's difficult if not impossible to sum up a person in a single word, in my case, I believe I've come pretty close. I've looked into the depths of me and extracted the verbal essence, which is a natural, versatile, simple, and powerful energy named "yeah." But does it do the job? I can safely say that, yeah, it hits the nail on the head. 🧐

An Apology

by Robert Liota

I apologize for the callousness with which I addressed an anonymous individual's display of dedication to a cause in which they believed. It was mean, and I retract my previous statement. 🙇

This is

a

NAPKIN.

by Sky Reid-Mills



Dr. Seuss Duck-Shark Bukkake Porn

by Hannah Cooper-Hamlet
(with poem and lettering by DJ Nixon)



אָ יִידִישׁע געוואָלט

by Benjamin Batchelder

אָ יִידִישׁע א'ב' א' (ע' ש'ס'פ'א'ק
נ'ש'פ' א'ב' א'ב' ש'ס'פ'א'ק!
ב'נ'ש'פ' א'ב' (א'ב' ש'ס'פ'א'ק

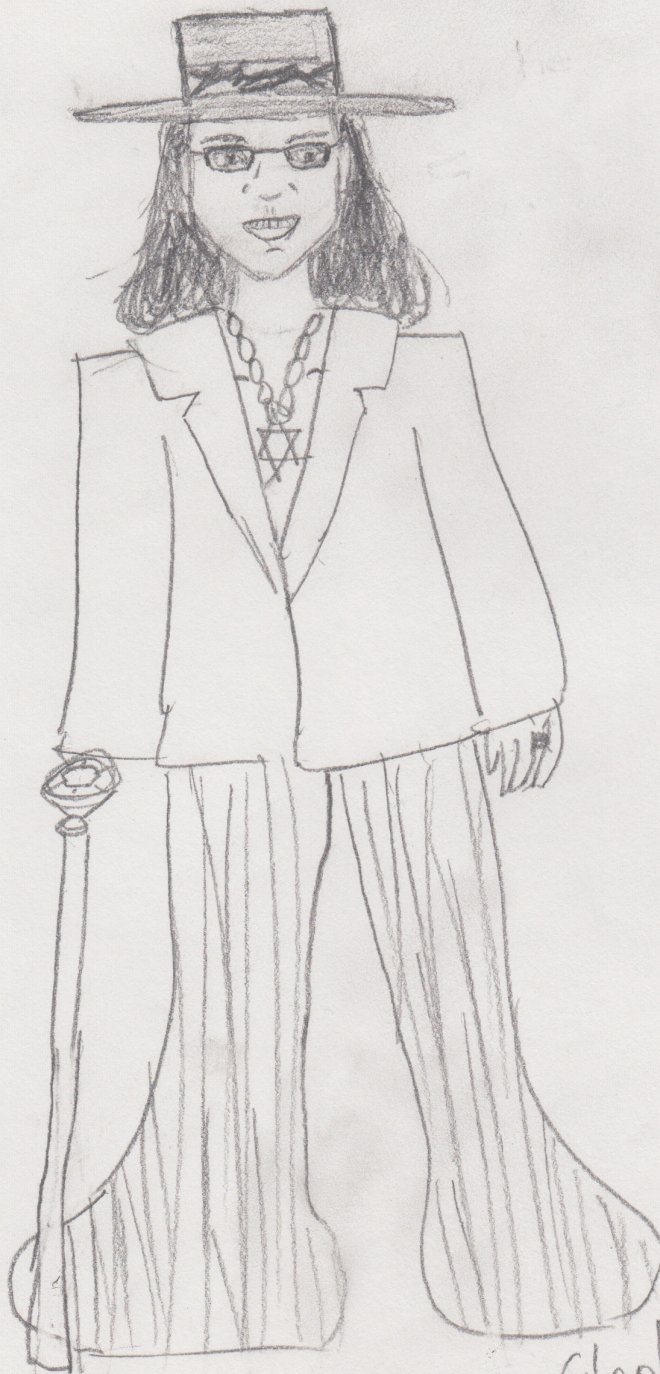
SECTION LIES

SKY'S TOP 10 Animated films
(in no particular order)

1. Princess Mononoke
2. Spirited away (probably)
3. Triplets of Belleville is in there somewhere
4. WALTZ ~~with~~ Bashir has to be there. IT'S important. SPELL IT!
5. Something by Pixar, unless I want to be gutted. That's what happens.
6. fill whatever in, I'm sure none will know the difference
7. I just forgot, I had something
8. God, all these things SUCK. Animation is a stupid medium anyway.
9. Can I go with waltz with Bashir again? It's the best animated movie none has ever seen. They should watch it.
10. Everything he touches is gold.

by Fiona Stewart-Taylor

Evan Sylberman:
keepin' his bitches in line



Stephanie Schmidt

The Problem of Hamburgers

by Greg Larsen

submitted with sincere apologies

So I was sitting in my orgone accumulator yesterday (it's next to the trampoline in the woods) when I had this thought: Why don't I have a hamburger right now? Now, this question can be approached several ways. Perhaps the simplest way that we examine it is by asking ourselves, "So what is preventing me from having a luscious ball of meat flattened into a patty placed atop a small piece of not-bread and in close proximity to yet another piece of not-bread at this place where I am sitting and contemplating this poorly-worded question?" The answer may surprise you.

I didn't have a hamburger at that moment because I didn't bring a hamburger out there with me. After all, there wasn't a cow, nor a slaughterhouse, nor a meatpacking plant, nor a grocery store, nor a fast-food outlet. I could cook it in the orgone accumulator, because god, what can't you do with one, but I can't because I don't have it. Nor do I have not-bread. Well, I have a lot of not-bread, but it's not the right not-bread. After all, the trampoline, the dirt, the trees, the pine needles, my shoes (not that I have them, either), and my hair is all not-bread. In fact, the vast majority of things are not-bread.

But wait, is that true? Assuming that there's an infinite number of possible things, there's an infinite number of things that are not-bread. However, there's also an infinite number of different permutations of bread. But then again, there's a larger infinite number of permutations of not-bread. Think about that for a minute. So anyway, this still leaves me regrettably burgerless. This is perhaps the greatest problem to face the field of my muddy intellectual meanderings within my homemade orgone accumulator.

Greater, yes, than the dilemma of whether I should consider changing my life goal away from becoming a TSA agent. More important, even, than my

pondering over who should own the remains of the last of the white rhinoceros. That one used to be the biggest, but I realized that they should belong to the men who killed them. Obviously. And as much as I'd like to, I have to admit that I will never be able to return to the 1950s because my time machine sprung a leak.

With that in mind, I still need a hamburger. After all, I'm quite hungry. You just can't live on orgones alone. And it's been a few hours since breakfast.

Maybe more than a few. Maybe I'll get up and walk somewhere to get one. Perhaps I'll order one from a takeout restaurant. I'm sure someone around here will bring one out here to me. And once I get it, I'll savor that wholesome, 100% American scent, raise it to my lips, and then stop because I'm a vegetarian. 🐮

Neville's Big Adventure

by Schmidt & Schmidt's brother

Chapter 1

Once upon a time, after the fifth Harry Potter book, which was kind of alright, there lived a brave young strapping lad, known by the name Neville Longbottom. He lived in a magical world, which was actually the same world as our world, but he knew about secret hidden magic stuff, like potions that make you fart chickens. The wizards were mostly the same as us non-magical folks, with the same kinds of problems, but instead of taking Viagra, they cast "engorgio mio junkulus." It was time for our young hero to return to school for a bright new fresh zippy school year...but when the others saw him, they noticed there was something different about good ole Neville Longbottom. But what could that be...???

a/n

So this is super def a neville!centric ficcy, just a plot bunny that kicked me in the shins so bad I had to drop out of 3 classes to write this chappy. Please vote for your faavorite coupling, I'll conswider anyone not actually who's role in the movie was not played by an actor who made an appearance in the Sweeny Todd movie.

Tune in next chapter to find out Neville's secret!

Chapter 2

Harry was sitting in his Magical Algebra class. "And so you see," said Professor Logarithm, "we have magic, and we can just point our wands at the book and all of the problems solve themselves. That's all, class is over for the rest of the year. Have fun." The class proceeded to toss their textbooks into the trash, creating quite a commotion as books whizzed through the air.

As Harry turned around to try the no-look over-the-shoulder shot, he noticed an unfamiliar face sitting in the back of the class.

"Hermione," he said, turning to his best friend who was sitting next to him, clutching her book in the midst of the mayhem, "when did a horse get into Gryffindor?" Hermione turned around to see a horse sitting at a desk in the back of the classroom, wearing a scarf in the Hogwarts colors and nonchalantly snacking on some hay.

"I'm...I'm not quite sure. Perhaps we can go introduce ourselves after class." After class just happened to be at that exact moment, if you recall, so they walked over immediately. For any nitpickers wondering where Ron was, he was at the front of the classroom lighting a pile of books on fire. The rest of the students stood around him in a circle, cheering.

As he approached the horse, Harry noticed it was like no other horse he had ever seen. His fur was the radiant golden-platinum of the radiant rising sun reflecting off of the radiant crest of radiant waves of the radiant ocean. Double Chrome Rainbow!! His mane was a soulful, metal-delicious auburn which spoke of glowing embers you would see in the similarly named Pokémon attack.

His eyes flickered, and gazing into their depths Harry could see luminescent specks of sapphire, gold, emerald, amethyst, ruby, onyx, silver, copper, pearl, gold, garnet, platinum, marble, pink sapphire, zinc, gold, yttrium, gold, potassium-sulfate, gold, Au, gold, gold, conglomerate, and potato. Harry gasped as he stared at this creature, who was somehow at one time both beauty and beast, for despite all of his exquisiteness, his beauty was almost over-powered by his beastliness. It was a pretty impressive horse.

"He...hello," stammered Hermione, who was also obviously affected by the horse's magnificent appearance. "Welcome to Hogwarts. I'm Hermione Granger and this is Harry Potter. What's your name?"

The horse wasn't able to talk, but he scribbled on a piece of paper with his prehensile tail and handed it to

Harry. When Harry saw the note, he let out a small, involuntary gasp. The penmanship was so elegant, every loop and cross a work of beauty...and yet beast. Harry, weak in the knees, collapsed on the ground, surprised by the sudden dampness surrounding his eyes. He wept openly, shortly joined by Hermione. Ron, across the room, could feel it too because of all the bullshit. Being an intuitive cry, as opposed to the real kind, he cried only out of his left eye and right ear, of course. Five minutes later, they managed to actually read the content of the note. "Dear Harry Potter and friends. What are you assholes talking about? It's me, Neville. I've been here for a week. How the fuck have you not noticed? I've already won 12,358 points for Gryffindor and 132 for Ravenclaw. Also, given the fact that you won't be able to speak for a couple of minutes, I'm going to peace out. Later, bitches."

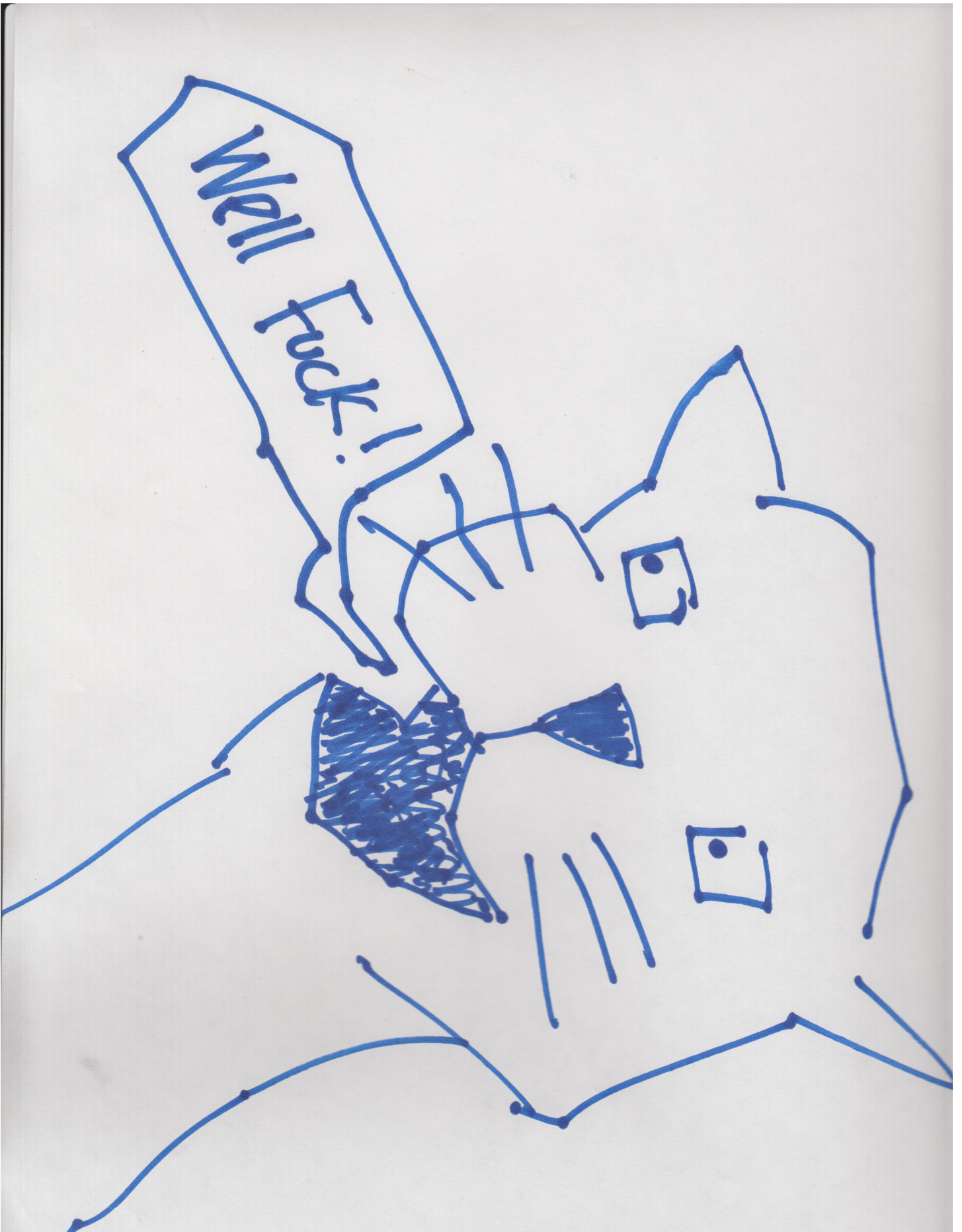
When Harry looked up, there was no sign of the equestrian halo-haver. There was, however, a significantly large fire burning in the classroom. Harry decided that a prompt exit was wise, even though, if asked, he wouldn't be able to tell his magic stick from his wand. Dumbass. He and Hermione and Ron and Dean Thomas quickly exited the classroom. "Why is Neville a horse?" asked Hermione, intelligently. Ish. "I don't know, but I can't believe you didn't notice before now," replied Dean Thomas. "Especially you Harry, he's still sleeping in our room!" Meanwhile, Neville, who was eating Honey Bunches of Hay in the great hall (it was still like morningish, so that's okay), thought back to the moment when his life changed forever...

a/n

Oh my God, Neville's a horse who would have thunk it! Lol! So like pleeeeeeaaassse review pleaseplease-pleaseplease I can't believe no one's voted! 🙏

by Benjamin
Batchelder





SECTION HATE

This is such a bad fucking idea by Dae Jin Yuk

Dear Omen,

It's 4:20 AM in the Airport Lounge and I have an essay and many git commits due later today. But 4:20 AM is that opposite hour in which stupid things are done and not things that make you stupid. So I'm submitting to you.

Dear guy with two letters and some opinions,

You are substituting a small, what-you-believe-to-be-humorous, and especially static blurb to the Omen for a deep and engaging conversation about your disagreements possibly ending with a greater understanding of the other and possibly gratuitous sex.

Good job,
Dae Jin

Dear Zilong,

Putting 2 and 2 together, there also seems to be a need for translators from AcadEnglish to plain English. Although it seems that a quick script that deletes 5/6 words in random would do the same job.

Besides "national interests," another thing that the American people take very seriously is their right to free speech without knowing exactly what it means or implies. Heck, even Supreme Court Justices argue about it. It is one of the more ambiguous amendments to the

Constitution and yet it seems to have served many Americans well and is one of America's most highly valued rights (besides the right to bear arms and arm bears and whatnot). What's up with that?

Come to Saga sometime when I'm there,
Dae Jin

Dear Jalana,

I must apologize for the quality of the photo is a crappy B&W instead of something that could be mistaken for an orgy. I am sorry to myself, as a matter of fact. In its current state, it looks something like "WHEN YOU SEE IT, YOU WILL SHIT BRIX" except that the WHEN is now and the SHIT is shat.

I'm going to build my house now,
Dae Jin

Dear Reboert,

First things first. The layout of the page is unfortunate, because you might either be Liota or January, but probably Liota.

Ok, now that's out of the way. I find it ironic that the author of the editorial piece you referred to has also entered a piece in this issue, which is actually quite funny. What is more important though is that it seems you have made the connection between the initial edi-

torial piece and free speech morals social contracts etc. as an afterthought. Not only is the paragraph repeated later on down the line, but I'm pretty sure that the main lesson of that episode was more about misunderstandings and about how some types of sarcasm just don't translate well without a human voice to deliver them. I think both you and I can agree that free speech is a big fucking deal, so please don't tie stuff together like that without really thinking deeply about it first.

Both you and the SJP have a curious problem of piggybacking weird shit onto your public letters, which would have produced a stronger letter left out, e.g. your convictions on citizenry in a letter about SJP's letter, SJP's convictions about water access in a letter clarifying the nature of a specific event, this little paragraph on piggybacking in a letter about absolutely nothing.

Again you bring up speech. Whereas I might disagree about any possible "disruptions" that the SJP might have caused during the lecture, I can hardly see how a public letter to the Climax (THE CLIMAX) can be anti-speech propaganda. Buried in the letter is the question "where is the Palestinian voice in this dialogue?" There is a big difference between protesting a voice and protesting what you perceive to be lies, or an unjust setting for discussion. Please consider that, because I'll say it again, free speech is a BIG FUCKING DEAL.

I don't know what my conclusion is, but I think it's got to do with irresponsible connections and trying hard next time.

I can't come up with creative valedictions,
Dae Jin

Dear Lauren,

To prevent more possible misunderstandings, please clarify that you are also a tree. Or a pokemaster. Either will do.

In all seriousness,
Dae Jin

So yes, that is my one massive public letter to the Omen. TO THE OMEN. All similarities to articles, peoples, and anything else from the last issue of the Omen is purely incidental and I didn't mean it. I didn't mean any of this. THE SUN'S ALMOST COMING UP ARRRSOG)!#rj09j09J@#)(j0v3rjp01-!2ju294 hQ

This one's for you, catch the Clap and all,
Dae Jin

P.S. I'm not actually so sure free speech is a big fucking deal because I'm allowed to publish stupid shit like this. 2 years down the line, man, this is gonna suck.



SJP: Why are you not on my side?

by Will Carper

Dear SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine):

Whose side are you on? Of course, I think it's safe to say, you are on the side of Palestine, and of peace, and liberty. But how are your tactics, particularly those displayed during the talk of IDF Sgt. Benjamin Anthony, doing good for any of these causes? Can you point to anything concrete? How do the people of Palestine benefit? How is awareness promoted on Hampshire campus when you did your best to stop the opposing view from speaking?

I ask in the title why you are not on my side because I believe that I agree with you on some critical points. I absolutely support Israel's right to exist and the Israeli people currently under constant bombardment, but I am fully against the current blockade. I think that by keeping basic necessities from Palestinians Israel is effectively keeping them stuck in the past, unable to move into the future. Clearly, we agree on at least a few points.

Again, my question is: why are you not on my side? What do you gain from me, someone who could potentially be an asset, being so disgusted by your actions last night that I am still disgusted, and angry, today? I know that I am not alone. How does alienating us, and those who hold opposing viewpoints to your own, help your cause in any way?

You want to voice your support for Palestine, but last night your actions had no discernible effect on the plight of Palestine. Who benefitted, then?

I am now of the opinion that you are not so much

interested in the cause that you rally behind as you are interested in yourselves. Or that you are simply too blind to see just how much you stand in your own way.

I was disgusted with your conduct last night, and I do not see what you gained from my disgust at all.

One other thing: How some of you could call a man that you know so little about, as you barely let him tell his story, a war criminal is beyond me.

- Will Carper, whc08@hampshire.edu 🐼

SJP: You Aren't Helping

by Devin Morse



So I've been thinking about writing this for a while, but figured I was too far removed from the whole issue. But now I'm at the layout for *The Omen* and we need more submissions so I'm writing one. So anyways: Students for Justice in Palestine, you aren't helping.

I say this as someone who doesn't really know as much about the Israel-Palestine issue as I'd like to. Based on what I do know, however, I am inclined to agree with you. My uninformed feelings are that Israel has no particular claim to the area, that there could be a peaceful solution through integration (as my understanding is that Arabs and Jews have historically coexisted), and that blaming Palestinians for acts of terrorism is akin to settlers in the 19th century blaming the Native American's for using violent means to defend themselves' against the United States.

That being said, you're statements and actions over the last month are making me less and less inclined to support you. Let me explain.

My distaste began with the open letter posted on the Intranet. Early on, you stated the following: "Personal attacks against students regardless of their political association is inappropriate, futile and does not progress any sort of vision of social justice that we strive to realize." This is an excellent point, that was, unfortunately, implicitly contradicted by everything else in the letter, the gist of which seemed to be that it was OK to harass supporters of Israel. Now, I am completely in favor of vocal opposition to other people's opinions. However, harassment, far from being an example of free speech, is in fact a deterrent, as it makes those being harassed scared to express their views.

You also said about the then upcoming talk by Sgt. Benjamin Anthony: "We do not think his presence is justifiable on our campus by any means and encourage those attending the event to remain critical of rhetoric often used to sanitize the destruction of Palestine." However, you have explicitly stated since the event that you did, in fact, plan organized disruption of the talk so that Sgt. Benjamin Anthony would not be able to express himself. How can someone attending a talk be critical of the rhetoric if they are prevented from hearing it? Ac-

tions like this on your part convey an incredible lack of respect for the intelligence of the Hampshire student populace. Do you really think that, given the arguments (or excuses, as may be) from both sides, Hampshire students can't figure out which one is right; indeed, that the student body needs you to protect it from Zionist arguments? If you want to make a voice for Palestinians, organize a competing event, or a panel afterwards where you can respond to the talk—and if your side is right and the arguments and justifications of Sgt. Benjamin Anthony are specious, an intelligent person will realize it. In fact, having been directly exposed to the arguments on the pro-Israel side, they may even be able to recognize just how bad those arguments are.

Now, I completely believe you have the right to do everything I have criticized. You have the right to free speech. But your actions indicate a belief (indeed, an explicit statement) that the other side should not have that right, and that's why I ask you to reconsider them. One should not attempt to shift the discourse by preventing opponents from speaking; to do so is an affront to the idea of free speech. Instead, one should work harder to make their own voice heard. As Voltaire said: "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it," to which I would add, "no matter how reprehensible I think it to be."

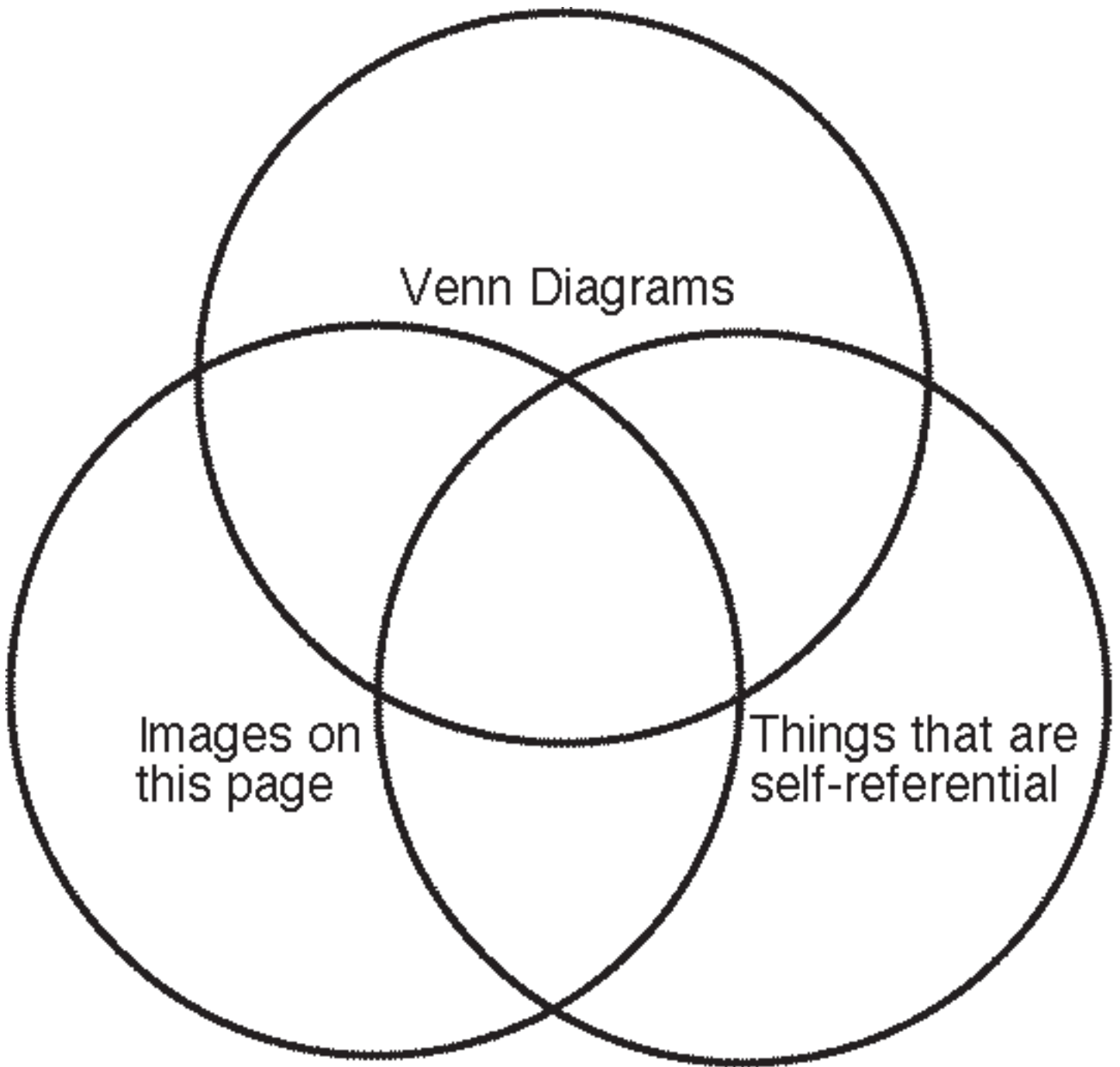
P.S. You state in the open letter that "[d]iscourses about Israel/Palestine on Hampshire's campus nearly always center on the dominant Zionist narrative because broad support for the state of Israel allows for Palestinian voices to be silenced or marginalized and almost entirely excluded from this campus." Perhaps it reflects a first-year's ignorance of Hampshire history, but this strikes me as absurd, especially considering that one of the biggest lecture events of the year, an event sponsored by the school, was the Eqbal Ahmad lecture, where two anti-Israel speakers were given a respectful audience to express their views, whereas the only major pro-Israel event I've noticed was the talk by Sgt. Benjamin Anthony, which only happened through a student's initiative. As I said, though, this may only reflect a lack of knowledge on my part. 🙄

A Complaint

by Greg Larsen

I feel the need to state my opinions on pressing social issues made manifest through recent events on campus. We all know what I'm talking about. I realize that we've already talked about this a lot, but it hasn't been resolved. Everyone's seen the letters and heard about it. Quite a few of us experienced it firsthand. Some of us felt deeply, deeply offended. Others didn't seem to grasp the extent to which they were out of line. In case it isn't obvious, I'm part of the former group. I remember thinking, when I experienced it, "How could they possibly think this is appropriate? What could possibly possess these people to do this? Are they aware that they're being so outwardly offensive toward reasonable people like me?" Now that it's been a while, across numerous conversations and interactions I've been in, I've come to realize that I'm hardly alone. I've watched light dinner conversation turn into shouting matches and friends at each other's throats. Clearly, it's a divisive issue. And I agree with one of the supporters' points: not talking about it won't make it go away. We need to be out in the open about this. That's why we need to facilitate further discourse on the topic. I think the people behind it know by this point that we're upset, but we need to go further than that. We need to fully understand each other - why they want to express themselves this way, why we feel the way we do, and maybe, just maybe, reach an agreement that will help us grow as a discursive community. I know I'm asking for a lot, but we're all reasonable, intelligent people here. I think we can at the very least talk further on the issue and get closer to the vibrant exchange of ideas that I know we're capable of. But seriously, why the fuck would Saga move the fruit to a separate shelf?





by Devin Morse

Community Council Minutes

submitted by Leanna Pohevitz

Community Council meets Tuesdays 3:30pm to 5:00pm in the back of the Community Council office - all are welcome - please come and positively affect your community!

Attendance: Leanna Pohevitz, Josiah Litant, Jasmine Washington, Sarah Gordon, Nathan Whitmore, Nelsen Hernandez, Alex Wenchel, Devin Kharpertian, Renee Sweeney, Chris Thomas

Meeting commenced: 3:41pm

FiCom: Signer sweatshirts are being ordered. Talking with the Greenwich/Enfield house interns issues with their budget, they didn't actually have one. Money budgeted after they spent it. Froze their budgets. Feedback on signer sem. Asian Media Collective planning a costume cafe which CLA is uncomfortable with. Pam is the support person on FiCom.

COCA: Trying to decide about rewriting the bylaw about the fourteen-day rule. Four to five day gap for events under \$200.00 that don't need a contract. Because they have planned it accordingly. Was \$1000.00. 2 signers from the Five College Queer and Gender Sexuality Conference. Asking for \$5000.00. Approved it for \$4999.00 so that it didn't have to come to council.

AW: Flyers have to be out before five days don't they.

SG: Two weeks is optimal but if we get back to you before hand.

NeL: When you give more time to people they tend to wait till last minute but I wouldn't advertise that change, just maybe vote on it internally.

COCD: No reportback

SafeCom: 25th of April - Bone Marrow Event.

E-mail went out about the ice to Dawn - they were doing the best they could and they put salt around in buckets so that people could put it out where they thought was dangerous, but that wasn't advertised well at all. Two pubs went to hampfest.

Surveys - to improve relations.

Sexual harassment - spoke to Jessica Gifford about the language used on the sex harassment language used on the website and documents - non-triggering documents to be created and be distributed - promote awareness on campus. E-mails to perform here.

Chris talks about the implementation committee of the GTF. We want to prepare a list to bring to Marlene so we can share thoughts on implementation and what we want it to look like, and things that we are worried/uncomfortable about. What are things we are worried about?

Devon asks what we can do until this meeting with Marlene, and until some changes to student government actually happen. Before we talk to her and have this conversation, is it worth our time to be coming to Council?

SG: We should make sure that there are people for the current governance bodies on the implementation body, and if not that they are advisory because that is beneficial.

JL: Marlene is meeting with the GTF Friday so she doesn't have a particular plan about the implement committee, the more you spell it out the better it is. You all should let her know whatever you think will be important.

CT: Asks about the work we did on Sunday - Can we present that to Marlene?

NW: Yeah like the purview

SG: But first we should figure out how to get involved in the process, before we bring that list to anyone.

CT: How would we want implementation to happen?

DK: Given what we have how much of the same principles do we expect its going to include.

SG: We should start with getting involved with the beginning the implementation process in order, then we should focus on community involvement.

NW: People may be more involved if it is more focused.

CT: I am alright about the idea of council serving as a PR - if council was strictly devoted to getting people to these roundtables.

JL: Let's also look at the structure of the roundtables.

CT: Groups instead of at-large.

SG: Visioning event like strategic planning. If we make people feel empowered to actually create change they are more likely to come.

JL: Open it up to everyone but reach out to some directly - members, previous members, staff.

SGL This is all stuff that we could work on with them

Office meeting discussion. - Try to decide a time, tabled for after council

-Elections as a council goal for the semester.

-Pet policy

-Headway on community center. - Strategic building committee. - becoming a huge advocate about this center being built on campus. - talk to them about what is required - financial support - implementation sub-committees.

SPC has sub-committees. Finding an implementation committee rep.

CT: Grace Ann found out about another huge sum of money.

NH: Easier to put stuff and more cost effective to put stuff toward re-hampering over the distant future idea of a student center.

CT: I feel like we do need new spaces as well stopping old places from being destroyed or falling apart.

AW: Renovating the gallery space to make it look like a gallery - tearing up the carpet and renovating the walls.

SG: Sustainability is also a strategic planning goal.

CT: Just putting all of these groups that we mentioned in communication with each.

LP: Leanna talks a bunch about the hearts and wants to list other things similar to that-easter egg hunts?

AW: Speaks about the idea of that being too religious?

CT: We need to show how integral the staff are.

SG: We need to make information more readily available.

LP: Well I like what GEO does where the students and staff have secret friendships and leave each other little gifts.

DK: Here are two staff members in the back of the Climax and the Omen.

LP: A section of I saw you doing whatever like they have in local newspapers.

NH: Couldn't we focus on supporting other people in their endeavors.

NW: How could governance actually achieve that.

NH: Being facilitators to the larger community.

Good things about the staff.

Alex will contact Climax and Omen about having a page in it for Council.

ELECTIONS:

SG, CT, Rob, and RS - Alex has ads to put up, but he needs the e-mail to go up.

Nominations open by the 18th and 21st?

LP motions to run secretary elections now.

JL refers to Operating Procedures.

Elections are run. Only one nominee.

LP: KS officer accountability - to meet with SG, Nelson, and DK. Make a program to evaluate if people are fulfilling their positions and to remove them if need be. LP to be at a meeting about stipends.

JL - working group whose information needs to get to the GTF.

Pet policy - pet specific housing at New College

NH and NW to be kept in contact by Leanna

LP motions to adjourn the meeting 4:53pm. Dk seconds motion.

Meeting adjourned 4:45pm. 🙋

